

MONITOR

Foreign-Affairs Aide Named President Tightens Policy

By Neal Stanford

Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington President Eisenhower is moving swiftly to tighten and reestablish effective control of foreign policy.

He has named Gen. Walter Bedell Smith—who has been his wartime chief of staff, Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Undersecretary of State, head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization commander—to be his White House special assistant on foreign policy matters.

He is putting Arthur Larson, his Undersecretary of Labor and articulate spokesman for "modern republicanism," into the post of director of the United States Information Agency. Mr. Larson's job now will be not to expound Eisenhowerism to the American people but to explain Americanism to the people of the world. He replaces Theodore Streibert.

New Post for Smith

General Smith's post is a new one, but one which the President has long felt was necessary in the fast moving events of the world. It could be compared to Admiral William D. Leahy's special postwar duties as President Truman's White House adviser or to Harry L. Hopkins's special assignment in the Roosevelt administration.

Meanwhile, the President began laying the groundwork for effective cooperation with the leaders of the new Congress. He called in 23 top leaders on Capitol Hill and gave them a review of the critical Middle East and Eastern European situations. While that meeting was a closed one, the reports of what went on suggest that the President believes the peak of the danger in the Middle East may have been passed. He is reported to feel that while no one could actually foresee the future, he was hopeful of a settlement in that area.

Congressmen left the White House saying that the report pictured the world situation as "very grave," "very serious," but not "alarming" enough to suggest open Soviet interven-

tion in the Middle East. In fact, it was reported that no new American policies toward that area were discussed because it was not felt necessary by the President that there be any new policies other than those now evolving. The big question seemed to be whether the belligerents in that region now would live up to their cease-fire promises.

Briefed on Hungary

As for Hungary, the legislators were shown a 10-minute newsreel of Hungarian rebellion that was variously described as "frightful," "horrible," and "despicable." The administration made no proposals other than to assert it would continue pressing for world condemnation of Soviet barbarism toward Hungary.

Prospects of a meeting between President Eisenhower, British Prime Minister Sir An-

thony Eden, and French Premier Guy Mollet still circulate in the capital here, though it now is assumed that there will be no such meeting until the outcome of the United Nations police-force move is clearer. M. Mollet is reported to have said that he definitely intends to visit Washington in the near future, though the White House has reported no official indication of this. But the Eden visit is still considered tentative and dependent on events.

That there is a need for such a Western Big Three meeting, and particularly a meeting between the President and the British Prime Minister, is taken for granted. The Western alliance was badly shaken by the British and French move against Egypt without notice or warning to Washington. Likewise, the development of NATO has suffered because of Allied preoccupation with more immediate troubles.

Summit Meeting Fades

Talk of a summit meeting at Geneva, originally proposed by the Swiss Government, because of the deteriorating world situation, has for the moment at least died down. While India and Britain tentatively accepted, it appears that the United States is in no hurry to reply, and both the Soviet Union and France have yet to react to the proposal. The Swiss Government made its proposal when it looked as if events might touch off a third world war, but the present general view is that the crisis has lessened.

The President's relations with the new Congress, if comments by congressional leaders indicate the way things will work, is that the Congress will operate pretty much as it did last session. The Democrats controlled that Congress by the same 49-47 margin in the Senate. Majority leader Lyndon B. Johnson (D) of Texas is reported to have said that his party would wait for the President's recommendations and then "evaluate" them before making its own views known.

Evidence that the President at least feels that the world crisis has lessened is seen in his decision to spend Nov. 10 at his Gettysburg farm.